

Singing in the classroom

My cooperating teacher (Kindergarten) loves to use singing to support literacy and encourage students to have fun with music. These are some of the ways she incorporated fun songs into the curriculum.

Reading centers: At one of the centers, students put together a preselected nursery rhyme book, practice reading it, and color it. Then at the end of centers, these students sit at the front of the class singing to a CD and other students join in from their desks. This was used to help transition from centers to lunch.

In other languages: Towards the end of the year we taught a song with verses in English and Spanish. Although only the chorus was simple enough to sing along to, students loved practicing the verses in both languages.

Read-aloud: My cooperating teacher has amassed an impressive collection of song-books, such as Baby Beluga, The Fox Went Out on a Chilly Night, and Tingalayo. She reads or sings these books as a read-aloud, and teaches students the chorus. She also teaches students the words to her favorite books and throughout the year she puts on a CD for a class sing along.

For fun: Sometimes she just taught songs that the kids would enjoy. These songs are written on large poster board, often with pictures or stickers to help students with the vocabulary. Students always practiced the lyrics without music first.

This song was a favorite of all the students.

Mr. Rabbit http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9S8Ih4_f_E

My cooperating teacher mostly used songs from CDs (Raffi and children's songs compilations), but occasionally used a song from YouTube.